

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A process for preparation of substantially pure desloratadine having a purity greater than 99.9%, comprising acidic hydrolysis of a compound of formula 3, where R is ~~selected from COR<sub>1</sub>, COOR<sub>1</sub>, wherein and R<sub>1</sub> is ethyl selected from~~ branched or linear alkyl containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl and their substituted analogs; comprising

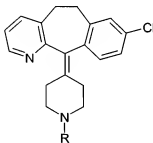
heating the compound of formula 3 in the presence of ~~a strong organic acid or a mineral acid for about 1 hour to about 24 hours~~ methane sulphonic acid for 5-15 hours at about 90° to 120°C,

adjusting the pH of the hydrolysed reaction mixture to about 3 to 5,

~~optionally~~ treating the pH adjusted reaction mixture with an adsorbent,

adjusting the pH of the reaction mixture to greater than about 9, and

isolating desloratadine by recrystallization from a solvent system comprising a mixture of an alcohol and a hydrocarbon solvent



Formula 3.

9-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein adsorbent is selected from charcoal, neutral or alkaline alumina, silica and fuller's earth.

16-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim [[18]]8, wherein alcohol is methanol and hydrocarbon solvent is cyclohexane.

20. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ratio of methanol:cyclohexane is 1:14 v/v.

21-22. (Cancelled)